

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 13-17 have been allowed; claims 2-4 and 7-12 have each been amended herein; and claims 1 and 18-20 have been cancelled herein.

Claims 1-9, 12 and 18-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being disclosed by U.S. Patent No. 5,996,024 to Blumenau (hereinafter "the '024 patent").

Claims 1 and 18-20 have been cancelled to expedite allowance of the application. Consequently, the rejection of these claims is rendered moot. The assignee of the application explicitly reserves the right to pursue these claims in a continuation application.

Claims 10 and 11 have each been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but each would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 10 and 11 have each been rewritten in an independent form that includes all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Further, claims 2-9 and 12 have been amended such that each of these claims now depends directly or indirectly from independent claims 10 and 11.

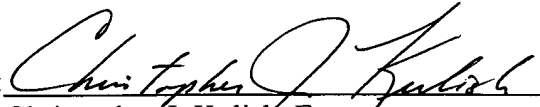
In light of the cancellation of independent claim 1 and the change of status of claims 10 and 11 from dependent claims to independent claims, please debit Deposit Account 08-2623 in

the amount of \$42.00. In the event that any other claim related fees are due, please debit the noted Deposit Account.

The application now appearing to be in form for allowance, reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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